

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable, wherein said sizing die includes a resilient member that defines said orifice.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable~~The apparatus of claim 1,~~ wherein said sizing die includes a helical spring-resilient member that defines said orifice.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tensioning mechanism for adjusting the tension of said ~~spring-resilient member~~ by causing relative rotation between opposite ends of said ~~spring-resilient member~~ to change the diameter of said orifice.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sizing die includes first and second portions respectively having first and second through-holes in which said spring-resilient member is disposed, wherein one end of said spring-resilient member is attached to said first portion and an opposite end of said spring-resilient member is attached to said second portion, said first and second portions be ~~rotatable~~ rotatable with respect to each other and corresponding to said tensioning mechanism.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~2, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~2, wherein said elongate member is a conductive member.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for applying a coating to an elongated member, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said elongated member is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable~~The apparatus of claim 1;~~
~~further comprising:~~

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for adjusting the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for controlling relative rotation between said first and second portions in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said first portion is disposed upstream of said second portion and wherein said first through hole has a conical shape.

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22. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elongated member is an optical fiber.

23. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elongate member is a conductive member.

24. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for adjusting the tension of said resilient member by causing relative movement between opposite ends of said resilient member to change the diameter of said orifice.

25. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sizing die includes first and second portions respectively having first and second through-holes in which said resilient member is disposed, wherein one end of said resilient member is attached to said first portion and an opposite end of said resilient member is attached to said second portion, said first and second portions be movable with respect to each other.

26. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, for measuring the diameter of said coating; and

a controller for controlling relative movement between said first and second portions in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

27. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

28. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, which measures the diameter of said coating; and

a controller to adjust the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

29. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

30. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said first portion is disposed upstream of said second portion.

31. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said first through hole has a conical shape.

32. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

33. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

34. (NEW) An apparatus for applying a coating to an optical fiber, comprising:

a coating unit having a sizing die with an orifice through which said optical fiber is conveyed, the diameter said orifice being adjustable, wherein said sizing die includes a resilient member that defines said orifice;

a measuring device, disposed downstream of said coating unit, which measures the diameter of said coating; and

a controller to adjust the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter of said coating.

35. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said controller automatically adjusts the diameter of the orifice in response to the measured diameter.

36. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said resilient member is a spring.

37. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said resilient member is a spring.

38. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said resilient member is a spring.

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